

STEPHEN O. GIBBS.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 357.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. R. DAVIS, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads,
made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred,
by order of this House, the memorial of Stephen O. Gibbs, have in-
structed me to report on the same :*

That Stephen O. Gibbs, a resident citizen of the county of Kaufman and State of Texas, under advertisement of December 31, 1857, for carrying the United States mail from July 1, 1858, to June 30, 1862, on route No. 8714, between Marshall and Kaufman, Texas, put in his bid to carry the same three times a week for the sum of fourteen hundred and forty-nine dollars a year, which bid was accepted by the Postmaster General ; that he intended the said bid to be twenty-four hundred and forty-nine dollars, but that, by mistake, the gentleman who wrote out the bid for him put fourteen hundred and forty-nine dollars, which mistake was not discovered by him until he was notified by the Postmaster General that his bid had been accepted. Immediately upon receiving this information he notified the department of it, and refused to give bond. To avoid, however, suit against himself and guarantors, he entered upon his duties, and has continued regularly to carry the mail on said route No. 8714 until the 6th day of January, 1860.

The affidavit of S. G. Parsons, who was postmaster at Kaufman at the time this bid was made, shows that the bid of Stephen O. Gibbs was intended to be twenty-four hundred and forty-nine dollars, and not fourteen hundred and forty-nine dollars. There is other proof showing that after the said Stephen O. Gibbs started his service on said line other offices were established on the route, imposing additional labor and trouble.

The committee believe from the testimony in the case, and from the further fact that there was but one other bid for a sum less than twenty-four hundred and forty-nine dollars, that the said Stephen O. Gibbs did intend to bid twenty-four hundred and forty-nine dollars, and that

the lesser sum was inserted by mistake. They find that there was one bid for the sum of nineteen hundred dollars. They recommend that under the circumstances the said Stephen O. Gibbs be allowed compensation for carrying the mail on this route at the rate of nineteen hundred dollars per annum from the first day of July, 1858, until the sixth day of January, 1860, and have instructed me to report a bill accordingly.